



December 1999
Y2K issue

Carolina DX Association

The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA W4DXA

N4PQX
W4WNT
K4MQG
K4ZA

Bob Burton
Bill Turner
Gary Dixon
Don Daso

President
Vice-President
Sec.-Treasurer
Editor

CDXA PacketCluster & other communications systems			
W4DXA Young Mountain	144.93	(1200 baud) & 441.00	(9600 baud)
K4MD Charlotte, NC	144.91	(1200 baud) & 441.075	(9600 baud)
digi-peater near Wingate, NC		DXWIN	144.91
repeater 147.18 (+600) near Fort Mill, SC			
homepage < www.cdxa.org >			

PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS

Welcome to a special edition of *The Pileup*. We normally don't have a December printing, but several issues need to be presented to all the members. The first news comes from our Secretary/Treasurer, Gary, K4MQG. Year 2000 membership dues are now due. If you use the PacketCluster, your dues are \$30. If you're a member who does not use the PacketCluster system, your dues are \$15. Enclosed in this *Pileup* is a self-addressed envelope for your convenience.

Next, an update from the CDXA Christmas Party. I want to thank everyone who attended for coming. Once again, we enjoyed a swell meal and great company at AA4SC's Branding Iron restaurant. Our annual election of officers proceeded quickly enough, with the 1999 officers re-elected. Jerry Moore, AE4PB, volunteered to take over webmaster duties from K4MGN. Thanks to Nick for his work these 10 months, and to Jerry, for volunteering. Sadly, we still have a position open and that's newsletter editor. K4ZA has decided it's time to work on completing his contest station and other projects. This special edition of *The Pileup* will be Don's last as editor and we will certainly miss him. It's no surprise to me no one stepped forward to fill this position, as following Don's work will be difficult. He's been a huge asset to the CDXA and has provided us with several years of excellent newsletters. I don't know where he finds all of his material (*I don't find it, I create it.* --Ed.) But, I think you'll agree it's been very useful and insightful to all of us. We hate to see Don go, but these things are inevitable and it's time for someone to step up to the challenge. Six years ago, Don did it, stepped up and provided great service to the club. Now, it's time for someone else to do just that. Remember this club is only as good as the membership and what they are willing to do, so if you're interested in our open position, contact me or Bill or Gary. Again, thanks Don for your hard work in making *The Pileup* a newsletter everyone in the CDXA looks forward to receiving.

Indeed, we have many volunteers who spend lots of time keeping things going. Joe, K4MD, continues to provide us with excellent support and service on the PacketCluster system, as well as all the Sysops and other volunteers who help keep the system running. PacketCluster users thank you all for your efforts in keeping the system up and running. Roger, N4ZC, continues to coordinate the W4/N4/A4 QSL bureau, including letter sorters and bulk sorters from our club. They ensure we get our QSLs in timely fashion. As the sunspots have increased, their efforts have followed, which is also appreciated. And K4MQG and K4ZA serve as our Roanoke Division DX and Contest Advisory Committee representatives, further examples of members stepping up to make a difference.

Remember that we need someone to step up as editor, and while they are large shoes to fill, I hope to hear from some volunteers soon. Here's wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and good DX in 2000.

73 de Bob - N4PQX

An obit is an obit, except when it's an EDITORIAL

October 16th is a day some of us will remember, for a while. For on that day, we lost a creative talent, a voice if you will, which many of us heard and will long remember—a voice from the radio. On that day, Jean Shepherd passed away.

Marshall McLuhan called Shepherd “the first radio novelist,” and he was probably right. I remember listening to Shepherd’s late-night radio show from WOR in New York. The 6L6 would glow blue and Jean’s monologue would carry me off to dreamland. You may know his work from stories in *PLAYBOY* or perhaps the annual screenings of *A Christmas Story*, a simply superb film about a small town boy’s dream of owning a BB gun. (“You’ll put your eye out!” as the refrain goes...well...you’ll have to see it for yourself.) The point is the stories themselves. No shock talk, no sports, no call-in-advice or loud music, just stories, a mix of Twain and Bierce, with maybe some Mencken thrown in, stories and tales with wry commentaries and smart-aleck humor, too. You won’t (or can’t) find anything like it today.

I recall the surprise (and actual delight) when, many years later, I discovered this same voice was K2ORS. And although I never worked him, or even know anyone who did, the fact that he was “one of us,” was never far from my thoughts when trying to explain to someone why I was a ham, and what that meant, and what we did with radio, and so forth. Meaning there was more to that “one of us” idea than simply sharing something like a government-issued callsign. Maybe there was something to this radio stuff, after all? Maybe I could actually, somehow, amount to something? When Shepherd got around to working in television, I was in film school. And probably, maybe almost certainly, about 75%-sure I’d made the right career move, thinking this “media thing” would pan out, you know? His two PBS series, *Shepherd’s Pie* and *Jean Shepherd’s America* were essays on a widely-disparate group of things, from beer to that big old swamp down in Florida. Obviously, the man was comfortable both behind a mic and in front of the camera, and wasn’t afraid to take the camera out into the field. I was pleased, since that’s what I wanted to do, too. He once wrote that “you have to work with what you’ve got and not what you wish you had,” which became a mantra for me in film/video production.

So, this guy whose work I’d enjoyed for so long—over the radio—was also a ham, was also a writer, was also working in the media, was also funny, was also, obviously, simply a creative kind of guy. No wonder I liked him, without ever meeting him or talking to him (over the air or in-person). Yet I felt I knew him. I knew he truly was “one of us,” as indeed, he was. K2ORS...a silent key, but not forgotten.

--K4ZA

It's with deep regret that I've decided to stop producing material for the CDXA. The reasons are many; they're complex and emotional, yet simple and basic. I cannot continue writing for only a couple of people, and trying to change what I cannot change. It's an existential thing, and I'm following Mr. Perls's advice: I'm accepting things and wish the club continued growth and success and look forward to being just a dues-paying member.

vy 73 de Don K4ZA

WY2000

The WY2000 license (Roswell DX Association, trustee W4VHF) was secured for the express purpose of exchanging this call with other amateur radio operators around the world during the month of January, 2000. The objective is to work as many stations as possible on all bands and all modes, beginning 0000 UTC on January 1, 2000.

Members of the Carolina DX Association will be the participating stations during this event. To keep operating times orderly, Band Captains are necessary. Each Band Captain will be in control of the WY2000 call on his or her assigned band. Others wishing to operate the same band with the WY2000 call will merely sign up with the Band Captain. This way no more than one station will be operating per mode per band at one time. A spirit of cooperation is necessary.

Commemorative QSLs will be printed for this event. QSL Manager will be K4MQG. All cards—which include SASEs—will be answered. All Bureau cards will be answered via the Bureau. Any member of the CDXA interested in participating in this operating event, please contact Gary, K4MQG (803-547-7450) or Ted, W4VHF (704-333-6872).

BAND CAPTAINS

160M	AA4NN	Joe Blackwell	803-831-2547
75M	K4MQG	Gary Dixon	803-547-7450
40M	AA4NN	Joe Blackwell	803-831-2547
(40MSSB)	N4ZC	Rober Burt	704-263-1133
30M	K4MQG	Gary Dixon	803-547-7450
20M	AA4R	Bill Parris	704-892-4081
17M	W4WNT	Bill Turner	704-846-5499
15M	W4SI	Rodney Harper	704-735-7338
12M	W4UNP	Bill Jennings	803-329-9095
10M	K4ZA	Don Daso	704-263-1134
6M	N4ZC	Roger Burt	704-263-1133
2M	KA8ISM	John Scott	704-896-9841

Note that 160M Phone and 12M CW are available. If interested, please call the respective Band Captain.

INTRA-CLUB COMPETITION CQ WW & ARRL 10M CONTESTS

CQWW Phone, Unassisted, Low Power - Henry Elwell - N4UH
CQWW Phone, Unassisted, High Power - Bill Tippet - W4ZV
CQWW Phone, Assisted, Low Power - Nick Palomba - K4MGN
CQWW Phone, Assisted, High Power - Nobby Mills - W4UFO

Runner up for High Power was Claude Oakes - NC4NC
Honorable Mention to Bill Turner - W4WNT
Runner up for Low Power was David Ellis - WA8WV
Honorable Mention to Jerry Moore - AE4PB

Winner of the "U Dah Man" contest, the intra-club CQWW CW competition sponsored by the Carolina CW Ops was Joe Blackwell - AA4NN

The overall CDXA CQWW Champion winner was Bill Tippet - W4ZV

The competition and activity these plaques and prizes generated were intense, and gratifying to one and all. Also, there are some healthy goals to emulate next year.

The Last Gunfight of the 20th Century, as well as the terrific propagation, brought out lots of smoking guns, but when the smoke cleared, there were just two standing: 10M Phone to Bill Tippet - W4ZV and 10M Mixed Mode to Don Daso - K4ZA

Congratulations to both Bill and Don on outstanding nationally ranked scores and being the last smoking guns of the 20th century. Again, thanks to everyone who participated. I hope each of you had a great time and enjoyed the challenge.

A FEW WORDS ABOUT THE OMNI VI

I admit I'm a gear-oriented kinda guy. I like the actual radios. I like listening to them, using them, just plain "spinning the knobs," as it were. I even like tinkering with radios, in my own limited fashion. So, it was with some trepidation that I approached buying an actual new, still-current production radio, from CDXA's own near-dealer-status entrepreneur, W4WBT. I'm now the proud owner of a shiny Omni VI. As one who's pushed a paddle on occasion, I'm here to tell ya, this is one sweet CW rig! The very first NEW radio I ever bought was a Ten-Tec, way back in 1981, when I took money earned free-lancing on commercials and bought a Corsair. Later, after meeting N4ZC and contesting from there, I became a Kenwood guy, in order to make cabling easier, and because they seemed to be good radios. Having visited the ten-tec factory recently, being a respectful fan of N4AR (Bill bought two Omni rigs, for SO2R contesting), having read the reviews, and having heard the scuttlebutt for oh-so-long, I figured I couldn't lose. And I wasn't disappointed. I thought the rig made a difference in working stations right down into the noise floor in the CQ WW CW contest (single band 10M) and I was pleased with the performance in the recent 10M contest. I haven't learned all its features yet, but the menu-selectable tuning rate is a joy (especially after the my old 830). I built the remote tuning knob, which is also a great accessory. Fully loaded with filters, it's just about the smoothest rig I've ever tuned. That means I like it, a lot. The companion Centurion amplifier is also a treat--QSK with 1300 watts. So, the bottom line is I wish I had two of them. And a new Titan II amp....

--K4ZA